

wherein the at least one movable gripping member may be positioned between the boat ladder and the boat such that movement of the at least one movable gripping member in the first engages the system to the boat ladder.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-15 have been allowed in the most recent Office Action. Claims 10, 12, 16, 18 and 19 have been rejected in the most recent Office Action. Claim 17 has been objected to in the most recent Office Action, but has been indicated as allowable if amended to incorporate all of the elements and limitations of claim 16, from which it depends. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 17 have been amended hereinabove, and claim 17 has been so placed in Independent form. Claims 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled hereinabove. Applicants respectfully traverse each ground of rejection and request reconsideration and further examination of the application under 37 CFR § 1.111. Applicants respond to each ground of rejection and objection as follows.

A. The specification was objected to as including various informalities.

The informalities forming the basis of the objection have been addressed as follows:

In the Specification, the typographical and inconsistent claim term usage errors listed in the most recent Office Action have been corrected in the above amendments to the Specification. Other similar typographical and claim term inconsistency errors have been identified and corrected as well. It is submitted that the Specification is no longer objectionable.

B. The claims were objected to as including various informalities.

The informalities forming the basis of the objection have been addressed as follows:

In claim 1, line 5, “member” was inserted after “ramp”.

In claim 1, line 16, “member” was inserted after “ramp”.

In claim 1, line 20, “first” was inserted after “the”.

In claim 1, line 32, “pin” was replaced with “protrusion”.

In claim 7, line 1, “member” was inserted after “ramp”.

In claim 8, line 1, “hooked” was inserted before “support”.

In claim 16, line 6, “portion” was inserted after “end”.

In claim 16, line 8, “body” was inserted after “central”.

In claim 18, line 5, “portion” was inserted after “end”.

In claim 18, line 7, “body” was inserted after “central”.

It is submitted that the Claims are no longer objectionable.

- C. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.**

Claim 18 has been cancelled hereinabove. Thus, the rejection of claim 18 is moot.

- D. Claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.**

The §112 grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome by the present amendments, as follows:

Claim 10 deletes the language “the platform” that was identified as having insufficient antecedent basis and replaces it with the properly antecedent-supported language “proximal end portion”.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 9 instead of from claim 1, as originally intended, and thus the limitations “the elongated ladder member” and “the elongated strut assembly” receive proper antecedent basis from their introduction in claim 9.

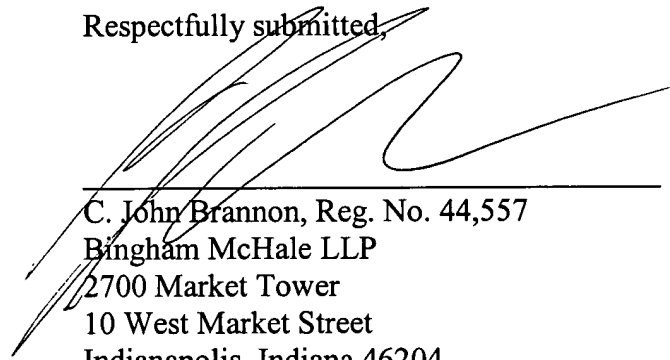
It is respectfully submitted that the claim rejections under §112 have thus been overcome.

- E. Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 as being anticipated by Dutkiewicz (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,562) and Koppelomaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,611,552), respectively; claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dutkiewicz.**

Claims 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled hereinabove. Thus, the rejection of claims 16, 18 and 19 is moot.

In view of the present amendments, and for the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance with claims 1-15 and 17 therein and requests allowance thereof. Should it facilitate allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney. If any extensions are necessary, please provide such extensions and charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-0410, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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